

DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY IN RRASI ENGINEERING COLLEGE

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ABSTRACT

This article gives insights on the basic concept of digital information literacy and what are all the components of digital literacy. This paper further discuss digital natives information seeking behavior in digital library and whether they have any awareness about copyright issues and security issues in digital environment. This paper explores digital information literacy and their components of Computer literacy, internet literacy, digital library literacy, ethical literacy, Emotional literacy, and security issues in digital Era. Primary goal of this study is to discusses the basic Digital information literacy skills among RRASE Engineering college in Chennai and found that students are skilled in internet and computer literacy but they are not aware of digital library resources, emotional and ethical literacy. For that new online training or orientation programme may be organized in library for DIL.

KEYWORDS: Digital Information Literacy, Digital Information Discovery, Information Literacy, Information Discovery, Computer Literacy, Internet Literacy, Digital Library Literacy, Ethical Literacy, Emotional Literacy

INTRODUCTION

- **Skills Needed in Digital Era**

- Skill in digital Access
- Skill in using digital resources accessed
- Evaluating the digital resources according to the requirement

Learning (Literacy) not just teaching or pedagogy, it depends upon the ability of students in effective usage of digital information and the capability of handling computers and other mobile devices and he should also aware of digital rights in copyright issues and security in data sharing in social networking.

DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY

- The American Library Association (ALA) states that, “ To be Information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information”
- Information literacy in the digital environment is digital information literacy

- Digital inclusion in every sectors leads to the necessity of digital literacy

COMPONENTS OF DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY

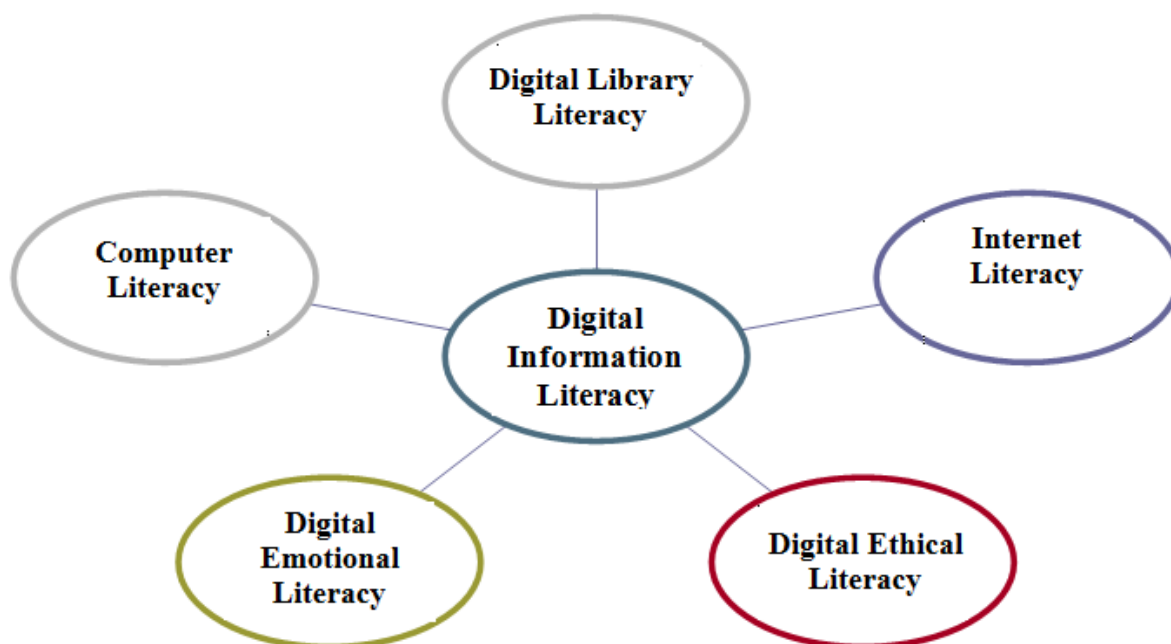


Figure 1

- Digital Library Literacy
- Internet Literacy
- Computer Literacy
- Digital Ethical Literacy
- Digital Emotional Literacy

Digital Library Literacy

- Handling library databases effectively and efficiently
- Digital copyright issues
- Locating Quality information through library website

Internet Literacy

- Internet Knowledge in getting relevant information
- Online Query or search skills
- Navigation capability
- Evaluate Information efficiently
- Internet safety usage

Using Social networks in useful ways. Using Blogs, facebook, Twitter in effective manner. Online youth civic engagement is a noteworthy development, and there have been successful institutional and individual initiatives aimed at empowering youth and providing them with online means to voice their opinions and concerns in society (Montgomery, Gottlieb-Robles & Larson, 2004) ⁵

Face Book group study (Baylor, 2014). Study: College Students grouped together on Facebook do better than other students who not using Facebook group study ⁶

Net literacy improves computer access with secured data sharing.

Computer Literacy

- Basic computer skills
- Hardware & software applications

Net generation students are ICT skilled is not true. They are using ICT in playing video games and chatting in social network, we have to engage them in online learning through mobile devices and promote the usage of library websites.

Librarians can arrange training programs in accompany with teachers for computer literacy.

Ethical Literacy

- Plagiarism Awareness
- Acknowledgement for previous works referred
- Giving references in their works

Today's college graduates live in a world where it is important to understand key information policy issues. Intellectual property, privacy, and First Amendment issues are fundamental to operating as an informed citizen in today's information society and directly affect the work of individuals who create, as well as use, networked information.

Emotional Literacy

Emotional literacy is to gain emotional intelligence

Goleman's Emotional Intelligence¹

- Self Awareness
- Self Management
- Social Awareness

Self awareness is to respond to the forums in internet and limit to share the privacy.

Self management with social networking sites. Face Book group study (Baylor, 2014). Students who participated in the Face book group scored higher in quizzes and also in exams ².

Social awareness in providing information in internet. Example Digital natives are not aware of social responsibility and security risks before giving any information in the internet. For example, Mapathon was a competition

organized by Google to encourage people to identify places of interest on Google Maps and hence improve the quality and usefulness of Google Maps. The competition ran into trouble after the Survey of India registered a police complaint against Google for not taking prior permission for the competition and for mapping vital areas and placing their map information in the public domain.³

National security is questionable due to lack of Cyber security literacy in digital transfer of information.

NEED OF DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY

It is the 21st Century skill needed for user in digital environment. For security and safe use of digital resources, digital literacy is a must in digital Era. Digital natives are always with laptops or smart devices in their hand, but how effective they are using internet for their capacity building is questionable. There are many problems like Bullying, cyber crime, copyright issues, security threat, Social unawareness causes many critical. To avoid and prevent threats in digital world, digital literacy is essential. It is nothing but creating awareness in digital space.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Elango,B (2010) conducted survey of Digital information literacy of IFET engineering college faculty members in Villupuram and concluded there is a need of an orientation programme to improve the skills in e-resources and internet search tools to the faculty members of IFET College of Engineering, Villupuram.

Abdulwahab olanrewaju Issa et al (2009) in his studies concluded that skills have not taken the desired firm root among University of Ilorin students [7].

RRASE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING: AN OVERVIEW

RRASE College of Engineering approved by AICTE and affiliated to Anna University, Chennai is run by RRASE HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL TRUST founded in 2008. Nearly 800 students are enrolled and the courses offered are BE (CIVIL, MECH, EEE, ECE, CSE) & B. Tech (IT). M. E (CSE). The founder of the trust, Dr. S. Renganathan is an academician with rich experience in teaching and research. He was dean in MIT, Anna University. He believes in quality in education at affordable cost & education for innovation. The college library is well equipped in terms of books and current journals. In addition to main library, each department has a departmental library having Computer facility with internet, printer and scanner. The Main library, which functions under the open access system has a total collection of 15000 books. In addition, the library subscribes IEEE/IEE, ASME International Journals and over 20 of printed periodicals.

OBJECTIVES OF DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY

- Focus on users ability in handling E-resources
- To find out the Digital information Literacy skills among Engineering college students in Chennai.
- To find out internet, computer, emotional and ethical skills among Engineering college students in Chennai.
- To make library users aware of fair use and unfair use of digital resources.

SCOPE OF DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY

The study is restricted to RRASI engineering college students. The analysis of the data is based on the information provided by the respondents of Questionnaire. Period of study is 2013.

METHODOLOGY

Out of 800 students sample size of 100, a total of 150 questionnaires were distributed among the users and 120 questionnaires were obtained from the users from which 100 questionnaires were selected in respect of I yr- 25, II yr -25, III yr – 25 and final yr-25. Simple percentage method and simple assembling has been utilized in this paper.

RESEARCH ANALYSIS

Table 1: Year Wise Distribution of Respondents

Profile in SN Sites	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
I year	25	25%
II year	25	25%
III year	25	25%
IV year	25	25%
Total	100	100%

Table 1 shows that respondents of I yr-25% II Yr-25%, III yr 25% and final yr 25% are equal in getting the questionnaires.

Table 2: Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Male	70	70%
Female	30	30%

Table 2 shows Male respondents are more (70%) than female respondents (30%)

Table 3: Reason for not Using E-Resources in Digital Library

Reason for not Using E-Resources	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Lack of Awareness about e-resources	67	67%
Lack of skills of users	51	51%
Using internet as a first information search tool	98	98%
Downloading problem	27	27%

Table 3 shows majority of students (98%) of respondents using internet as a first search engine and (67%) are lack of awareness about e-resources in digital library and (51%) of respondents are not skilled in using databases in library.(27 %) of respondents are having downloading problem.

Table 4: Use of the Library Web Site as a Gateway to Access Electronic Resource

Library Web Site as a Gateway	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	36	36%
No	64	64%

The result shows 64% are not aware of library website as a gateway to access E-resources and (36%) of respondents are using library website as gateway to access electronic resources.

Table 5: Frequency of Visiting Library

Frequency of Visiting Library	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Every day	47	47%
Once a week	33	33%
Once in a month	12	12%
fortnightly	7	7%
Rarely	1	1%

The result reveals that 47% of respondents are using library regularly, 33% are using library once in a week. 12% of respondents are using library once in a month and 7% of respondents are using fortnightly. Only 1% of respondents are using library rarely.

Table 6: Purpose of Visiting Library

Purpose of Visiting Library	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
To prepare for the University examination	12	12%
To do project work	36	36%
To prepare for competitive exams	17	17%
General Awareness	8	8%
To present Paper	27	27%

Table 6 shows that majority of respondents (36%) are visiting library for doing project work and 27% to present paper. 12% of respondents visiting library for preparing university exam and 17% are for preparing competitive exams and only 8% of respondents are visiting library for general awareness.

Table 7: Ease of Access to E-resources in Internet

E-resources	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Yes	98	98%
No	2	2%

Table 7 shows 98% of students are using e-resources effectively and only 2% are not skilled in using E-resources in internet.

Table 8: Experience in Handling Internet

Experience in Handling Internet	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Less than 1 year	2	2%
2 years	8	8%
3 years	32	32%
More than 4 years	58	58%
Total	100	100%

Table 8 Shows 58% of students are very experienced in using Internet for more than 4 years. 32% of students are using for 3 years and 8% are using for 2years and only 2% are not skilled in internet accession.

Table 9: Computer Literacy

Experience in Handling Computer	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Ms Office and other basic skills	60	60%
Using software packages	56	56%
Basic Hardware usage like connecting Laptop with projector etc	80	80%
Using Laptop & Tablets	72	72%

Table 9 shows Basic Hardware knowledge is 80% among students and 72% of them are using their own Laptops and Tablets in their curricular aspects. 60% of students are skilled in Ms Office and other basic computer skills and 56% of students are skilled in using software packages like SPSS etc.

Table 10: Emotional Literacy

Aware of Security in Sharing Personal Information	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	12	12%
No	88	88%

Table 10 Shows that 88% of students are not aware of security risks in sharing of personal information in Net and 12% of students are aware of security risks

Table 11: Ethical Literacy

Aware of Copyright Issues / Plagiarism	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Yes	2	2%
No	98	98%

Table 11 shows that 98% of students are not aware about Plagiarism and only 2% of students are aware of it.

Table 12: Level of Digital Information Skills

Level of DIL Skills	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
Formulating the need of information	98	98%
Accessing needed information	67	67%
Using information effectively	46	46%

Table 12 shows that 98% of students can formulate their needs, 67% of students are accessing needed information and 46% of students are not skilled enough to use the accessed information effectively and efficiently.

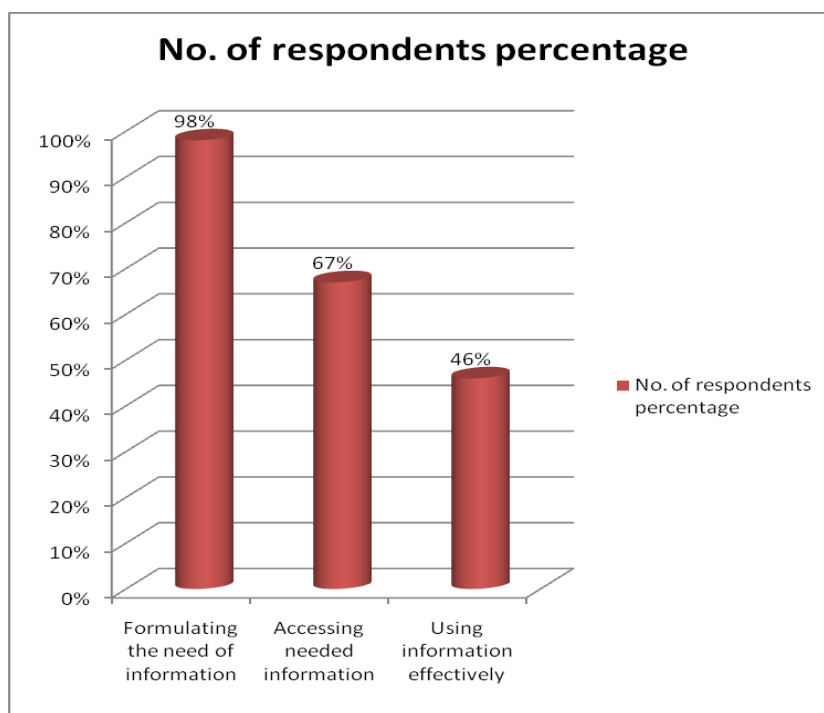


Figure 2

FINDINGS

The major findings of the present study are

- Majority of students are having internet and computer skills but they are not significantly skilled in Digital library literacy, emotional and ethical literacy.

CONCLUSIONS

Methods suggested to literate digital library users

- FAQ in the library portal about library databases available and how they can use it 24x7 in remote access mode.
- Online Quiz to the library members in related to plagiarism and copyright issues are to be included.
- Virtual reference service for locating Quality information through Skype, Facebook, Twitter etc.
- Email Alert service (SDI and CAS)
- Methods suggested to emotional literacy to users
- Bibliotherapy (Treatment of giving counseling through books & Databases)
- Methods suggested to Ethical literacy to users
- Enhancing ethical literacy through orientation programme
- Copyright issues and plagiarism awareness should be in their curriculum itself (like softskills and environmental studies ethical literacy too are included in curriculum)

It is Suggested to provide online training sessions and library helps pages to develop skills in using Digital resources and Library orientation programmes and other outreach programme should be arranged for creating awareness among Digital library users and increase their skill and capability. Digital natives prefer instant messaging and spontaneous information from anytime, anywhere, any information they needed in their fingertips from mobile devices. For this FAQ in library portal is best practice in Digital library. FAQ can give Digital rules and other availability of resources to users through remote access. Lack of Digital information literacy is among net generation college students. Even though they are frequent internet users, they are not fully utilizing the digital resources available in the Digital Library resources.

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